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DPD-2643-59

16 April 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT : Letter from Mr. Gardner, 16 March 1959,  
re Hycon Proposal - "Study 10"

1. In response to your memorandum of 6 April 1959 (DD/P 4-4456) I have discussed the Gardner proposal with Mr. Roosevelt. He and several members of his staff have examined the proposal in some detail. I presume to summarize their over-all reaction to be that they would not incline toward undertaking the support of this effort solely under their own auspices. They have, as you are aware, a research board upon which they draw for a good deal of the kind of advice which Trevor Gardner proposes to furnish. On the other hand, they feel that if this proposal were supported either entirely elsewhere in the Agency, or on a joint basis, they would find a definite use for the efforts proposed by Gardner. They have in hand several ideas which they would be willing to discuss with the members of the Gardner team; however, they did voice the concern that these ideas may be somewhat pedestrian for the type of person Gardner has selected for his scientific consulting group.

2. Mr. Roosevelt would be quite eager to cooperate in any indoctrination of Trevor Gardner himself in the event Gardner should become the focal point for the presentation of problems and ideas to the scientific consulting group.

4. Last week I was called by [ ] regarding our interest in Trevor's suggestions. I told him that there was definite interest on our part and that the delay was due to our hesitance to reopen the subject with Trevor because of his recent personal misfortunes. I told [ ] also that we were in the process of reexamining our

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25X1 evaluations and would be, within a week or ten days, interested in discussing with himself or Trevor something which might be called a counter-proposal, which would be largely a resolution of details in the composition of the study group and method of operation. I asked [ ] to obtain, if possible, a reaffirmation of any commitments made to Gardner by the membership of the scientific consulting group.

25X1 5. To restate my own views, I should like to say I am heartily in favor of the basic idea presented by Trevor; however, I agree with you that it would be highly desirable to include more participation by [ ] perhaps somewhat less by Hycon in the supporting function. I found the list of specific ideas which Trevor submitted to be slightly less than breathtaking; however, with perhaps a week or ten days of concentrated discussions between Trevor and various senior people in the several appropriate agency components, I am sure a much more attractive menu could be prepared. Lastly, a reflection of your own view is that I am convinced that Trevor himself must be the focal point of this entire activity.

[ ]  
EUGENE P. KIEFER

Special Assistant for Technical Analysis  
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